

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 127

By Hawk

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Mr. G. Fred Sorrells upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Fred Sorrells, who has devoted forty years to the education and instruction of young students and athletes; on March 17, 2007, Mr. Sorrells will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high schools and athletics; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Mr. Sorrells began his teaching and coaching career as a member of the faculty at Greeneville Junior High School; he served as the head football and track coach as well as Assistant Basketball Coach until 1967, when he took a position at Greeneville High School as the assistant football and head track coach; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Fred Sorrells served as the head football coach at West Henderson High School in Hendersonville, North Carolina; he returned to Tennessee in 1970 as a faculty member of Carson Newman College where he served as the football defensive coordinator and head track coach; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Sorrells took a position as the head football coach at Jefferson High School in Jefferson City; in 1975, he took a position at Jefferson County High School in Dandridge, serving as Athletic Director and assistant football coach; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Coach Sorrells returned to his Greeneville roots and was named Athletic Director and head football coach at the high school; he served diligently for twenty-two years in that position, until his much deserved retirement in 1999; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as the head coach at Greeneville High, Mr. Sorrells posted an astounding record of 151 wins, eighty-two losses and seventeen winning seasons; he led his team to ten straight winning seasons in his last ten years there and was named Coach of the Year numerous times in the county, in the district, and in the region; and

WHEREAS, with a reputation for unwavering commitment to the principles he holds dear, Coach Sorrells implemented a variety of athletic programs at Greeneville High, including wrestling, softball, boys and girls soccer, girls golf, and a fulltime trainer position; and

WHEREAS, his reputation for just and competent service warranted his being selected to serve as the Intermountain Athletic Conference President from 1985 to 1995; in 1989, Mr. Sorrells implemented the first drug testing program for all athletes in Greeneville High School, the first such program in the State; and

WHEREAS, his lengthy list of service to notable organizations includes service as a member of the Board of Directors for TACA in 1990 and TSSAA Athletic Director Regional Representative from 1995 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mr. Sorrells was named the 1991-1992 TSSAA Athletic Director of the Year and the 1998 REX Dockery State Prep Coach of the Year; he also received the 1992 Julian Crocker Influence Award in 1992; and

WHEREAS, due to Mr. Sorrells' vast coaching achievements, he was asked to serve as the assistant coach in the TN vs. KY All-star Classic in 1993 and was promoted to head coach in that competition the following year; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of the Greeneville community, Mr. Sorrells is supported by his loving wife, Helen Rollins, whom he married in 2004; his children, Sherry Finchum, Timothy Sorrells, and Fred Clark Sorrells; his two step-children, Debbie Brooks and Donna Everett; his nine grandchildren; and his four step-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and his impressive work ethic, Mr. G. Fred Sorrells has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Fred Sorrells, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts in mentoring the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards whether on the athletic fields or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the family, friends, and colleagues of G. Fred Sorrells in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend Mr. Sorrells for his substantial legacy as a teacher, coach, and administrator in the education community of Tennessee, and offer our thanks for the dedication that he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.